

Cat hit by arrow to appear on 'Today Show'

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Brownie the cat, who is doing well following surgery to remove an arrow from his head, will appear on NBC's "Today Show" Saturday morning.

Monroe County Humane Association CEO Sarah Hayes said the organization has received an outpouring of public support and donations after Brownie's story went national, enabling it to raise the reward for information leading to the conviction of those responsible for injuring the cat from \$500 to \$1,450.

She said her office has been inundated with calls from local and national media — including "The Today Show," the New York Daily News and People magazine — as well as from concerned citizens, including a farmer who tearfully told her he planned to sell more of his soybeans so he could have additional funds to donate. Even someone from Washington, D.C., called to offer an opinion on the type of arrow found sticking through Brownie's head, she said.

"People are enraged, sickened and sad, and they want to do something about it," Hayes said. "People want to make this situation right."

EARLIER: The original story on HeraldTimesOnline.com

MORE: [Humane association's Brownie page](#)

She said Brownie is being cared for by Monroe County animal control officer Rebecca Brown, as his owner is elderly and the cat required special care following his surgery. But she saw the 4-year-old orange and white tabby Wednesday when he visited her office, and said he looked well.

"He's doing great, just great," Hayes said. "He was hanging out with our office dogs — he loves dogs — purring, and he likes to be held."

She said she's been amazed by the news coverage of Brownie's injury, and said she hopes it draws attention to animal cruelty issues. "While some people found the images (of Brownie with an arrow through his head) upsetting — and they are hard to look at — these are the reality of what happens to animals," she said.

Casey Shake with Town and Country Vet Hospital, the veterinarian who operated to remove the arrow from Brownie's head, admitted today he's a "little shocked" at all the media attention the story has received.

The true hero in the situation, he said, is Brownie.

"It amazes me every day, the pain tolerance that animals have. They're a lot tougher than people," he said. "And the unconditional love that an animal can show. I think I'd probably be mad at the world if I was that cat. But he was purring when he came in, and purring when he left. I guess he made the best of his situation."

Brownie, Shake and Hayes will be set to appear via satellite in an 8 a.m. segment during Saturday's broadcast, which will air locally on Channel 13.

Can you help?

Anyone with information about Brownie's wounds is asked to call Monroe County animal control officer Rebecca Brown at 349-2585. The Monroe County Humane Association is offering a \$1,450 reward to anyone with information that leads to the conviction of the person or persons responsible.

Brownie the cat, after his arrow was removed. Courtesy photo

